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DALMONT NURSERY

PLAINVIEW, TEXAS
ROUTE NUMBER TWO

*GROWERS OF HARDY FRUIT TREES
SHADES AND ORNAMENTAL
SHRUBBERY*

ALL VIEWS BY BERRY STUDIO ARE OF OUR PERSONAL GROUNDS.



MAIN SECTION OF GENERAL VIEW OF DALMONT NURSERY.



*General View, Dalmont
Nursery - Plainview, Texas - 1921*

A SECTION OF GENERAL VIEW OF THE DALMONT NURSERY

Location

Our nursery is located fifteen miles Southeast of Plainview, on what is termed "Running Water Draw," but in reality is the heart of the Brasos river. On the Llano Estacado Plains which was once considered a desert plains. One would conclude from the above picture that it has changed considerably.



THIS IS OUR COUNTRY—LET US BEAUTIFY IT—DALMONT.

Introductory

In presenting this catalogue to my friends and patrons, will say that I am doing this after 29 years of experience. I don't feel that I am entitled to any credit, if I should be, its this one thing, I have stayed on the job, I have devoted my time and means to the advancement of the fruit interest in West Texas, New Mexico and the plains. After these years of experience I must say we have made many failures, as the success of the fruit interest depends on many conditions.

First: The importance of getting trees that are adapted to our climate, by this I mean that which can stand our winters, late frosts, and high winds.

Second: the planting and general care. For further information see Dalmonts instructions for planting and growing trees in West Texas and New Mexico. But we must say here, a man contemplating planting trees, should have in mind the shape and kind of a tree that he wishes to grow, as much as a carpenter that expects to build a house, how he is going to cut his timber. A fruit tree should be shaped so the sun will never shine on the body of the tree and the shade be around the roots. (This applies only to shade trees). We have too much dry wind and hot sunshine for the trees to do well if pruned high.

We test from twenty to thirty new varieties of fruit every year, we have tested out over one hundred varieties of plums and only recommend ten or twelve kinds. In buying from me you get the benefit of over forty years experience in West Texas in fruit growing. I planted my first orchard in Taylor County near Abilene in 1880. Com menced the Nursery business near Abilene in 1885.

I feel I have not accomplished much in my nursery work, but I hope in the near future to be of great benefit to the horticulture interests of our country. I feel this calling is a very important one to the welfare of humanity and the country in general, especially when I recall that the very first thing God did for man was to plant him a garden—an orchard, with all kinds of fruit. When we think of the difference in the price of land in countries like California and other places where they have planted trees abundantly and beautified their homes, their surroundings and highways, on land perhaps no better than ours but selling for many times the price of ours, then we realize the importance of planting trees.

Introductory

Trees were Gods first gracious gift to man to protect him from the burning sands. To give him shade in the hottest days, as well as to break the winds in cooler waves. To build the homes of the rich and poor with furniture rich or crude, to bless his comfort while he is there. To furnish food so rich and pure that health and strength it should restore. To bridge the stream and make the ties that hold the rails and brings the trains that commerce needs. To frame the ships and build the masts that holds the flag that sales the sea. To do its part to fence the crops from all intruding beasts. It makes no difference how rich your soil may be, there is no beauty without a tree. The flowers that bloom with fragrant free, cast their beauty for you and me.—Dalmont.

TERMS:

I will guarantee my stock to bear as young and as often as any that can be had from any place at any price.

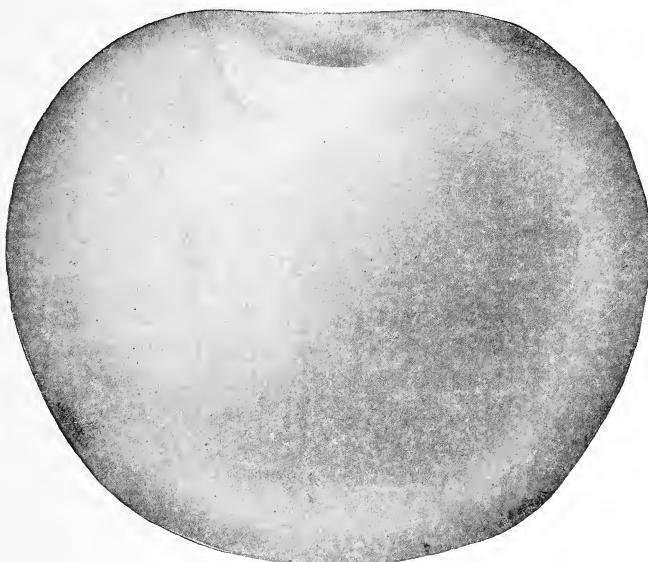
We exercise utmost care to have our trees labeled true to name, and if any should prove otherwise, I am always ready to replace such a tree with one that is true to label of first tree, or refund the price paid for same.

I want it understood that under no circumstances, do I agree to be held responsible for any other further damages.

L. M. DALMONT.

We send order sheets with prices, also duplicate with information for handling and growing nursery stock, with each catalogue. We appreciate the trade we have had from all our old customers and hope in the future to be of a greater service to our patrons than we have in the past, so that we might deserve the patronage of new customers.

We pay transportation on all orders amounting to ten dollars or more.



The Apple

The apple was once the common Hawthorne and Crabapple. Horticulturist and nurserymen through perseverance and skill has improved the apple from its original native condition to what we have now, our improved different varieties, ripening at different times from June to November. The apple in the north has stood at the head of all fruits for home and commercial purposes but perhaps in Texas the peach may be in the lead, but I wouldn't be surprised in the plains that plums, grapes and berries will become our leading

fruits, as they commence to bearing young and bear regularly, also cherries.

We will list our varieties of apples as much as we can as they ripen in succession:

Early Harvest, an old standard variety, as one of the best real early apples, yellow, bears well and brings a good price.

Red June, a nice early apple ripening just after early harvest.

Yellow Cluster, one of the best of its season, large golden yellow, bears young, good for eating fresh; good for cooking purposes; takes its name from the fact that it bears in cluster. This tree is well adapted to our western climate as it is strong and stocky and shapes up well to suit the climate.

Banna, another of the best for the plains, bears young, large yellow, red cheeks, extra quality.

Wine Sap, another old standard variety, good quality, bears young.

Golden Wine Sap, yellow, good quality, larger than Red Wine Sap, a fine market apple.

Red Radiance, introduced by me, a beautiful red apple of the best quality that should have first place in any market.

Red Delicious, one of the best flavored eating apples.

York Imperial, a good commercial apple, good bearer, fine quality, one of best for the west.

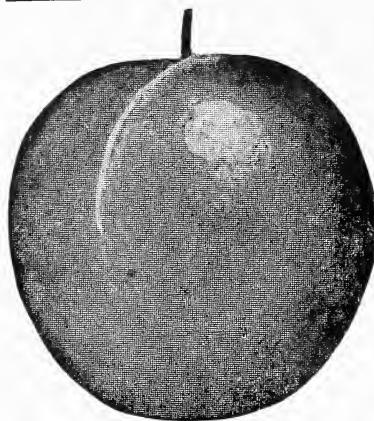
Florence Crab, a small attractive crab that is suited for cooking, especially jellies and preserves.

Arkansas Black, noted for its attractive appearance, and color.

Horse, another old standby, ripens in early fall.

Missouri Pippin, the apple that stands at the head of all others for its young and prolific bearing, should be in all orchards.

Florence Crab, a beautiful crab especially adapted for jelly and preserves.



The Apricot

This tree comes nearer combining the purpose of a fruit tree and shade tree than any other, as it is a hardy growing tree that makes a good shade. On account of its early blooming it is often killed by late frost, but as it gets older and the sap does not rise so early it is a moderately good bearing fruit tree, listed in the following:

Early Golden, Moore Park, and Seedlings.

Pears

We find that the older the pears get, the better they bear. We think it is because the sap does not rise as early in the old trees as the young ones.

We only list three varieties: Bartlett, Haw kins, and Early Wilder.

Necturenes

This is a sport that occurs sometimes from among peach trees, and no doubt is a cross between peach, apricots or plums, and unlike the peach is not fuzzy, but smooth like a plum.

We have the Elpaso, which originated in New Mexico, from seeds brought from El Paso.

PRUNES

Prunes are an European plum which is well adapted to drying, and do well if given proper care, and attention; commence to bear from three or from three to four years. We have the German and the Italian prune.

PEACHES

A Universal fruit which people most every where enjoy. On account of its large size, beauty and quality. Sometimes killed on account of its early blooming, but we are gradually adding to our list of peaches new varieties that have originated from seed that are grown on the plains, climated, and are well worth planting. And still we believe we will keep improving our peaches until we have a good peach country.

We have the following varieties:

Early Dawn, a good early cling, with red cheek, one of the best of the early peaches.

Early Wheeler, one of our hardiest early peaches, an attractive white with red cheek. A fine market peach.

Triumph. This is one of the Best second early peach, very hardy, yellow free stone, red side. One of the surest, best peaches.

Mamie Ross. Originated in Texas. A large white peach, red cheek; semi-cling, and hard to beat for size and quality, also appearance.

Western Beauty. A beautiful large peach for eating also canning.

Empress. This is a large white peach, free stone with red cheek. Originated in Plainview with Buschercs, and promises to be a choice peach.

Master, peach. One of the largest we have ever grown. Cling, one specimen measured 11 inches in circumference. Introduced by me and believe it will be a good addition to our peach list.

Dalmont Favorite: This is a sure bearer and extra quality; white cling, red cheek; red next to seed; a cross between Indian and Gen. Lee.

Sure Shot. We think this is a little surer peach than any other we have originated; white peach, red cheek, red next to seed, good quality.

Indian Peach. We have these in the cling and free stone. The Indian peach is a favorite with many people because it combines Hardiness, appearance and quality, and should have a place in all orchards.

Elberta: A beautiful yellow free stone that has probably led all other varieties as a commercial peach, altho not as hardy as some others on the plains.

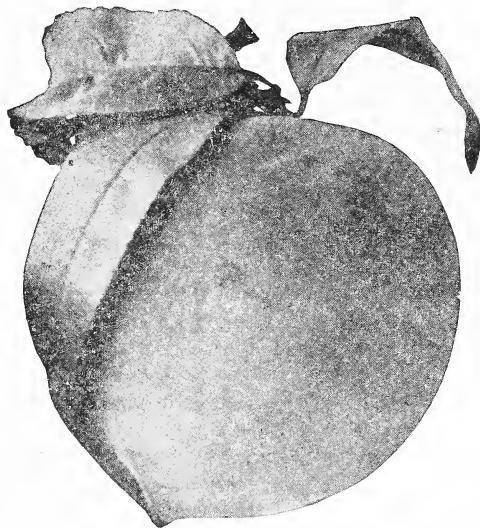
Last Chance Peach: Latest to get ripe in the fall, about the last of September. A red, firm, yellow cling especially adapted for sweet pickles and preserves.

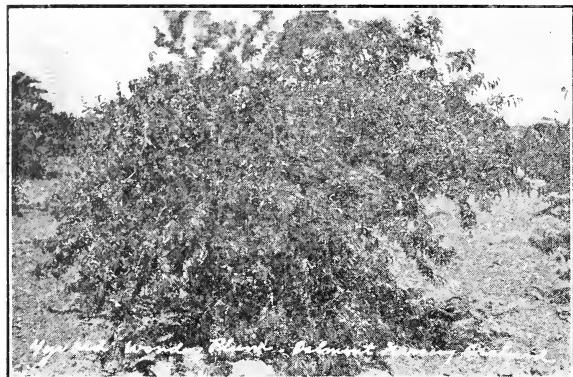
Old Mixon. Cling, red, white flesh. Red next to the seed. Good quality, sure bearer, ripens September 25th.

Family Tree. A combination of about three varieties of peaches and three of plums, all ripening at different times through the season, and are nice for people who do not have room for a large orchard. Price \$5.00.

Red Flowering Peach: This is a tree that all who have it are proud of. It looks like a large bouquet of roses for about three weeks in the spring, being entirely covered with red double rose-like blooms.

White Flowering. Very much like the red flowering except is white. The two together make a beautiful contrast. Price each, \$1.00.





Plums

We are expecting a great future for plums as we are getting new varieties from among crosses of the hardiest native varieties which are better adapted to our climate than anything we have had in the past. The Hansen varieties which have originated from crosses of some of our largest best plums and the Rocky Mountain cherry are giving good satisfaction for their young and prolific bearing, also the North American plums which bloom late and are seldom killed by late frost and are good size, and quality.



Then we have the improved Chickasaw. All these give us a list of plums that are among the best and surest fruits we could plant on the plains. Among these varieties we have the following to offer:

The Wonder: Which I have been growing on the plains for almost thirty years, an improved, red Chickasaw, bears very young, very prolific, moderate size.

Never Fail: This is a large plum, a cross of the North American varieties, bears from three to four years of age. Blooms late usually after late frost, generally about the last of April. Is of good quality and good appearance. Can hardly be surpassed for size and beauty.

Irby September. This is another late plum ripening about the last of August. It is a good size, and promises to be one of the best late varieties. Should sell well in any market.

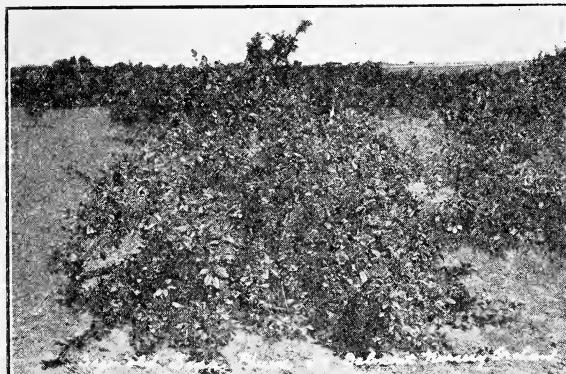




Plums

Golden Beauty: An extra prolific, young bearing plum that ripens about the 1st of Sept. Its lateness makes it desirable as it comes in after all other plums are gone.

The Lumbard: Is one of the best purple European, very much like a prune, but we believe will bear younger and better than the prune.



Blue Damson: This is a well known old variety which many people like on account of its being a favorite for cooking.

Sappy: This is a purple medium sweet plum, with wine colored flesh, bears at from 1 to 2 years, and is very prolific and extensively planted.

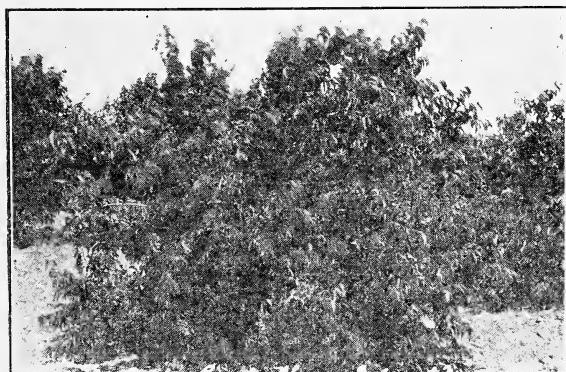
* **Opata:** Is a dark plum with yellow-green flesh, bears young and seldom killed by late frost.

Pools Pride: Is another improved Chickasaw plum, it is a medium size, firm sub-acid, one of the best for jellies and preserves.

Omaha: Another extra good quality American plum.

Gold Plum: This is a large yellow plum, most to tender for our plains country.

Waneta: This plum we haven't thoroughly tested out, but is of the Hansen variety and promises to be of good size and good quality.





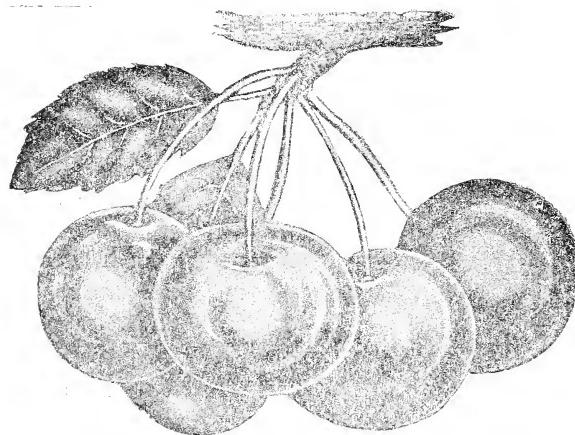
Compass Cherries

Hardy varieties of Cherries are one of our surest fruits. Bear young and regular. We list the following varieties:

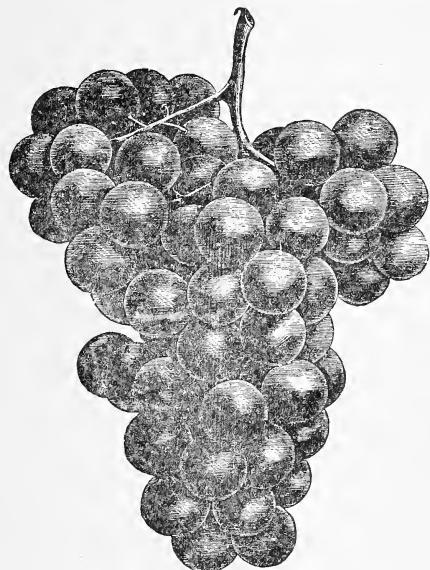
EARLY RICHMOND.

MONT MORENCY.

WRAGG.



Compass: Is a cross between a plum and cherry, bears young and often—is planted extensively on account of being so prolific.



Grapes

We believe the grape industry offers the best opportunities for a paying industry of any in the country, the soil is ideal for the growing of grapes, and all hardy varieties do well, we believe that fortunes could be made in the grape juice business, as well as has been done in other places, and the ones that commence first will reap the best harvest.

In some localities we may grow the European or tender California varieties but in our plains country our experience is that the winters are too cold, and we recommend the hardy varieties such as Concord, Niagras, Agawam, Catawba and Worden.

THE BERRY INDUSTRY

Most all hardy berries do well on the plains, especially the Austin May dewberry, and the Ever-bearing strawberries. We have the Austin May dewberry, Champion and Mastodon Ever-bearing also the Aroma, Texas and Klondike, annual bearing.

My experience with berries is that the Austin May improved dewberry is the best for our Western climate; very large, fine flavor, early and prolific fine for home and market.



Thornless Dewberry is a Sport from the Austin—has not been thoroughly tested by me, but is said to be about as good as the Austin and has the advantage of not having thorns.

Black Berries are easily grown, thrive on most any soil, bear second year and yield profitable, good for home and market. After fruiting cut the old canes down, the young canes will bear the next year.

Texas Early Wonder is a wonderful New Black Berry—early harvest, is a small prolific berry. Dallas is a large berry, good quality.



Raspberries

Not all varieties of raspberries do well in this country as they are adapted to a moist cool climate, however we have had moderate good success with the Columbia and St. Regis ever-bearing.

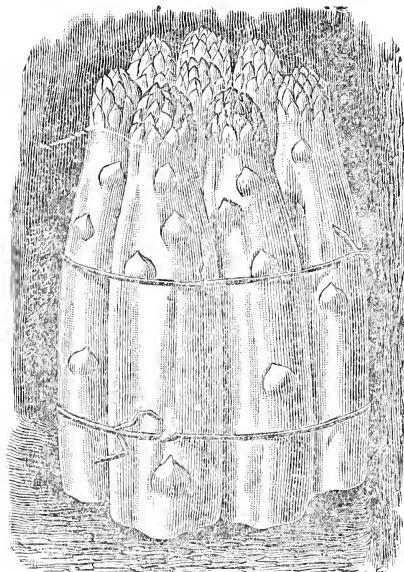
Strawberries

Perhaps will yield the biggest returns according to the space they occupy than any other fruit. Some have reported as high as one thousand dollars per acre returns.

For Strawberry planting the soil should be well prepared and kept that way. The varieties that we recommend are Champion and Mastodon in the ever-bearing varieties.

PERSIMMONS

We believe that there is a good future for the improving of persimmons both the American and Japanese varieties. We have the American persimmon and the American Seedless and the Eureka. Persimmon trees are hardly ever killed by frost; several should be together for good protection, then they hardly ever freeze.



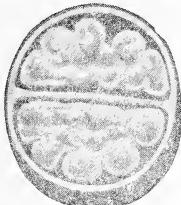
ASPARAGUS

This is one of our earliest and best vegetables that never fails to grow. Texas Klondike and Aroma in the annuals.

RHUBARB

It would be better if people knew more about using rhubarb as it takes the place of both early fruit and vegetables. In the spring it is really a medicine in disguise.



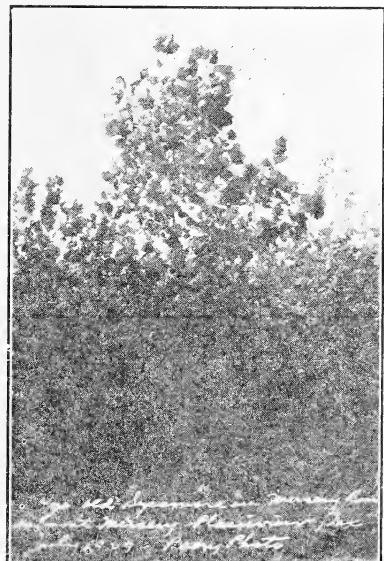


SHADE TREES

The plains being void of shade trees there is no place where shade trees show up to a better advantage for both shade and wind-breaks.

ASH

The American White Ash, one of our best hardy trees for shade, it holds its glossy tree foliage until late in the fall.



SYCAMORE

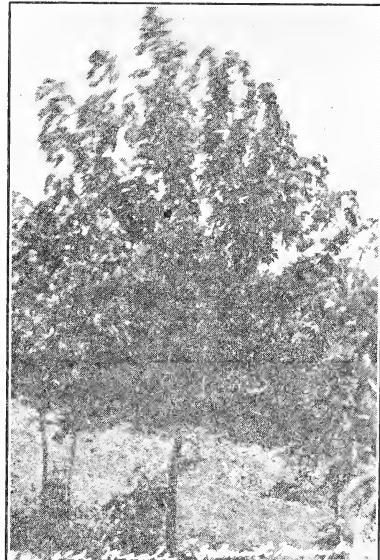
One of our most attractive American trees with large leaves and smooth bark.

WEEPING WILLOW

This tree has proven itself worthy of a place at all homes of the west especially where planted around tanks and ditches. It has drooping limbs which makes a beautiful effect.

SOFT MAPLE

It makes a large handsome tree suitable for parks and lawns.



Shade Trees

CHINESE ELM

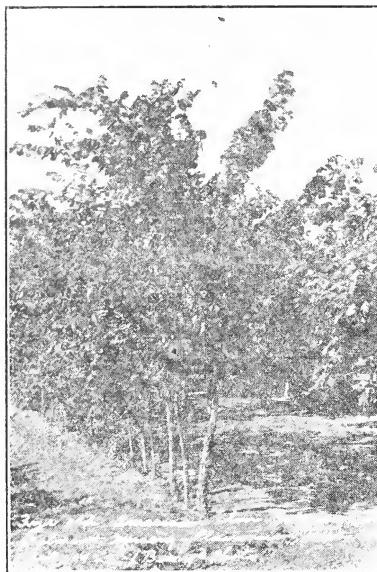
A magnificent tall growing tree with much spread and in time makes one of our best shade trees.

HONEY LOCUST

A handsome shade tree with smooth bark, some have long thorns. We have both the thornless and thorny Honey Locust.

BOX ELDER

This is a species of Maple which grows fast and makes a good shade tree..



COTTONWOOD

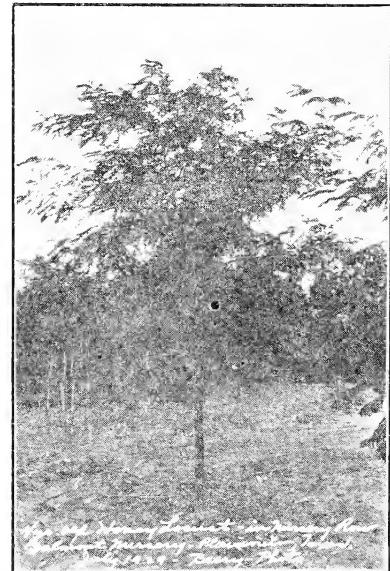
Many persons plant the cottonwood on account of its fast growth and good shade. It does well in moist locations.

CAROLINA POPULAR

Has large leaves and makes a good shade.

SILVER LEAF POPULAR

This is a very attractive tree on account of its silver lining on the under part of the foliage which makes it shine in our breeze.



THE FLOWERING WILLOW OR HARDY OLEANDER

This grows into a nice shade tree and blooms all through the summer.

BLACK LOCUST

This is one of the first trees planted on the plains and has served a good purpose for shade, wind-breaks and posts.



Shade Trees

CHINESE ELM

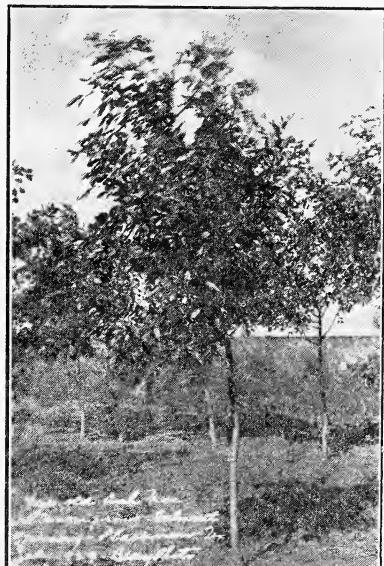
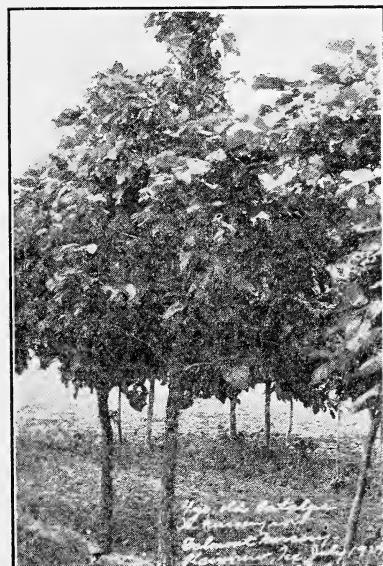
Has grown in popularity with the people of this country faster than any other tree on account of its fast growing and graceful appearance and we cannot see any reason why it will not hold its place as one of our best shade trees.

LOMBARDY POPULAR

This tree grows to be very large, has large leaves which gives the background, especially at a distance.

TAMARACKS

A fast growing deciduous tree which looks in the growing season like a cedar. It is well suited for single specimens or tall hedges.



BUNGEI CATALPA

This is a lovely tree well suited for lawn and shade.

SPESIOSA CATALPA

This stately, tall growing tree makes a beautiful effect in it a beautiful tropical appearance. It is well suited for shade or timber.



Evergreens

Chinese Pyramidal Arborvitae is to my opinion one of the most perfect of our evergreens. It assumes a beautiful shape without any pruning

Chinese Compacta, is an other of our beautiful Arborvitae. A beautiful green in summer. with a steel blue tinge in winter.

Golden Arboritae, a wonderful beautiful tree tipped with yellow with green underneath.

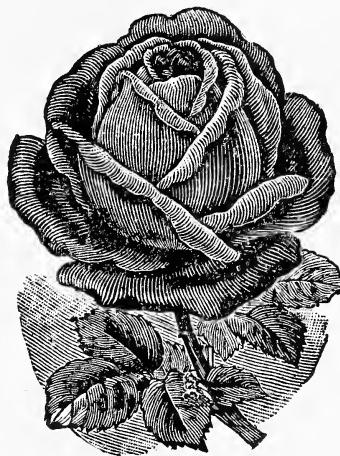
Rosedale Hybrid a cross between the Arborvitae and the red cedar. It is a bluish green in color.

Euonymus Japonica, a broad leaf evergreen well suited for single specimen or hedges.

California Privet. This is a plant that is best suited for hedges. Can be pruned in most any shape desired.

Evergreens are trees that give us beauty at all seasons of the year and just a few specimens in our front yard makes a wonderful effect.

Roses



This is often called the queen of flowers and when we consider that it was once just a simple single annual flower, and that now it has become a constant bloomer in all the different colors and shades, with sweet fragrance that can be found this shows what the hand and mind of man can do when properly applied. We are often asked the best way to transplant roses. We would say to plant them early in well prepared soil after they are planted cut tops off about two or three inches above the ground and hill them up with a broad hill of dirt and it will be still better to mulch the ground with some kind of coarse litter, such as cotton burs, stalks or coarse grass. They will grow out in the spring and will become hardened to our dry winds as they grow, and this way will place the most protected from the hard sweeping winds.

OUR LIST OF WHITE ROSES ARE:

KAISERINE, AUGUSTA VICTORIA, WHITE KILLARNEY, MAMIE CROCHET,
KARL DRUSCHI, WHITE LAFRANCE.

PINK ROSES: PINK RADIANCE, FRANCES SCOTT KEY, MY MARYLAND,
MADAM CAROLINE TESTOUT, FRANK DUNLOP, PAUL NEARON, PINK COLUMBIA, ANTONIE RIVOIRE.

YELLOW ROSES: SUNBURST, LADY HILLINGTON, GOLDEN OPHELIA, YELLOW LUXENBERG, LOS ANGELES..

RED ROSES: RED RADIANCE, ETOIL DE FRANCE, GRUSAN TIPLITZ,
AMERICAN BEAUTY, METEOR, RED BABY RAMBLER.



Shrubs

DOUBLE ALTHEA

This is undoubtedly the best flower for this country and is suited for growing as single specimens or in hedges. We have the Double, White, Pink, Red and Purple.

BUTTERFLY BUSH

This is a hardy, fast growing bush, blooming the first year it is planted.

CREPE MYRTLE

Sometimes freezes down during winters, comes out in the spring and blooms all summer. We have the pink, red and purple.

LILAC

We have the improved variety that blooms the first and second years in white and purple.

SPIREA—Van Houtte.

Is a beautiful shrub which is covered with white blooms during the spring.

SPIREA—Anthony Waterer

A very popular low growing shrub, becoming two feet high. Constantly in bloom all summer, flower clusters large, of flat top and rose colored.

HARDY EBER BLOOMING SALVIA

Will stand dry weather and has bright coral red flowers.

FLOWERING WILLOW OR HARDY OLEANDER

This is a wonderful beautiful little tree, originated in the dry regions of New Mexico, grows on any soil, stays in bloom during all the growing season.

CLIMBING VINES

Halls Jananese Honeysuckle.

One of our best climbing vines, as it is an evergreen and a profuse bloomer.

Silk Vine.

One of our fastest vines with gloosy green leaves. Often grows as tall as buildings.

Trumpet Vine.

This is an other fast growing vine with a long trumpet-shaped flower.

English Ivy.

A good vine for covering walls and buildings.



Bulbs and Grasses

Any one can have flowers from bulbs sooner and easier than any thing else. They are easy planted and soon come into bloom which makes a wonderful effect.

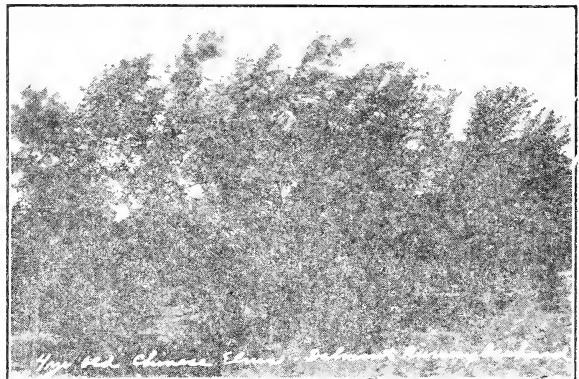
WE LIST:

CANNAS, DAHLIAS, PEONIES, GOLDENGLOW AND HOLLYHOCKS

Ornamental Grasses

These can be grown without much trouble. Just plant them and they will do the rest, attaining heights of eight to ten feet. The spirel like tops are very attractive.

We Have The DONAX, PAMPA AND ZEBRA.



View of Elm Trees Grown by the Dalmont Nursery



Showing sizes of trees—5-6 ft, 4-5 ft, 3-4 ft.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING TREES AND SHRUBBERY IN WEST TEXAS
AND NEW MEXICO.**

First, I want to impress on your mind that in transplanting trees and shrubbery in our climate one of the most important duties is to protect the tops from drying out during our dry winters while the roots are germinating. If you will do as I say, I believe you will have better success with your plants.

Trees have two kind of roots: tap roots and feeder roots. Both are important to tree growth for you need to have good tap roots to have good feeder root system. If a tree is dug in the fall, nature makes preparation for next year's growth by starting new roots during the winter or dormant season. The first step that it takes is the callusing at the end of the roots and from this callus starts the new tap root. For this reason, it is necessary to cut off the ends of the root with a sharp knife, making a smooth cut that will be turned down when the tree is set out. If the mashed ends of the root are not cut off, it will die and be in the way of the growth of the other roots and your tree cannot put on a good root system. Because of these reasons it is better to dig the tree in the fall so that preparation may be made for all the new roots.

I am often asked whether it is best to plant in the fall or spring. In our country, it is sometime best to heel the plants out in the fall until about February 20. By heeling, I mean this: Dig a ditch east and west, the north side straight down about eighteen inches deep; slop the south side nearly as far as the tops are long, then unpack your trees in the ditch close together, covering the roots with good loose soil and then with water. After that has been soaked in, cover the tops about three-fourths up with loose dirt. Remember not to leave them later than February 20. In this way the roots germinate new roots and the tops stay fresh and moist. If you plant in the Fall, our winters are often dry and windy and it dries out the tops, no matter how wet the roots are kept. People often say that they planted late in the Spring and had the best luck they had ever had. The reason for that was the trees had been heeled out in a Nursery Heelyard: For instance, you can heel out a limb in moist dirt in the winter and when Spring comes it will do one of the other, die or take root, owing to the kind of tree it is.

All different climates have different fruits that are best adapted to it; for instance, the cranberry and apple will grow best in a cold climate while the oranges, lemons, and other tropical fruits thrive best in a warm climate.

Another thing that is necessary for you to know is that you must shape your tree according to the climate so they will be better prepared to stand the dry winds and hot sunshine for we have more dry windy weather here than most anywhere. How to do this is explained in general instructions.

A tree should have plenty of leaves. The reasons for this is that your tree needs a shade and too, the leaves cooperate with the roots in the life of the tree. It is said that the leaves are the lungs of the tree. I am not sure about that but I do know that they regulate the circulation of the sap through the inner bark and wood. The tissues carry the sap and plant food from the farthest extent of the feeder-roots and every different part of the tree takes up its portion of the plant food which promotes the growth of the tree as it should be. I cannot give any farther explanation than this except that it is Nature, or it is one of the million other things that is the work of an all-wise and powerful Creator who knows how to do all things well.

Another important thing about leaves of trees is that they purify the air in the air by giving out oxygen and moisture. That is the reason that it is cooler and more pleasant in the shade of trees than it is in the shade of dead materials.

A good way to plant shrubbery, grapes and berries is to cut all of the top off within three or four inches of the ground after it is planted and then mound up to where they are cut off with loose dirt. The mound must be two or three feet across. The plants will grow out in the Spring and toughen to our dry winds and will be sure to live and make a better growth than if the top had been left on.

Let's beautify our homes by planting trees and shrubbery and in so doing, add to the appearance of our home and country at large. Let us be master of the situation, overcome all difficulties and make it a fruit country after all. It can be done! Plan to plant another tree for it is not a home until it is planted.

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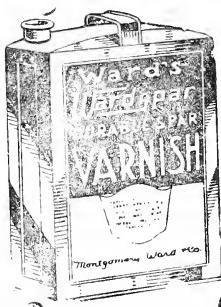


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Can Fruit Growing Be Made a Success on West Texas and the Plains?

BY L. N. DALMONT
Plainview, Texas

After twenty-nine years of experience I must admit that many orchards have been a failure, but I still believe that with experience and perseverance they can and will be made a success, especially with the fact that we are learning the varieties that do best, and among most of these are the varieties that originate in this country and in the coldest states. However, there are difficulties to be overcome and they are mainly these: late frost, dry weather, hard winds, hot sunshine and hail. We will consider the late frost first. I will say the most practical way is to plant hardy varieties that are adapted to the country. By this I mean the varieties that bloom late. There are some varieties that bloom about the last of April and there are other varieties that bloom moderately late, but that are so prolific that even though 90 per cent of the fruit buds are killed, there is enough left for a good fruit crop. Then there are varieties that are so hardy that it takes hard freezing weather to kill them. There are still other methods for protecting fruit from the frost but we people who have tried them do not find they are very practical. One is to use the smudge pots and smudge them at the time they need protection. This usually has to be done during or just after a cold spell and often in the night when it is very disagreeable to get out and do it. It is sometimes done when unnecessary and not done when it is needed. There is still another way and that is overhead irrigation—this in time may become a success—but my experience is the simplest way is to plant the hardy trees that will take care of themselves.

The problem of dry weather—is not so much the problem of getting the moisture as it is retaining the moisture after we get it. To my opinion the best way to do this is by thorough cultivation—and I mean by this to cultivate both ways so as to have a soil mulch three or four inches deep and do this as often as it is needed during the growing season—after every rain or about every two weeks and this will hold the moisture. I explain this by saying if a woman makes up bread dough and wants to keep a portion over until another date she will cover it with flour; this way it will stay fresh and moist for several hours, but if she were to put this piece of dough out in the sun and wind it would soon begin to dry out, crack and become dry. The same principle works in the culti-

vation of land, as the fine mulch on top stops evaporation.

There is still another method that can be used on small areas and this is mulching with coarse straw and stalks—this will stop evaporation and fertilize the land at the same time. Moisture can be supplied by irrigation—there is a great deal to be learned about the handling of water, especially in irrigating orchards or vegetables, and I believe many times that there is more harm done than good. For instance, if you have a plot of ground though it may be in perfect condition and flooded with water and not followed up with a good cultivation it will dry out, crack and bake and in a few days will be in a worse condition than if it hadn't been irrigated. My experience in irrigating as the better way is to irrigate through deep ditches, giving the sub soil a thorough soaking but not wetting the top any more than can be helped and just as soon as the top is sufficiently dry give it a good cultivation. This way an irrigation is equal to a good rain. We can take care of an orchard with just as little rain or moisture as any other crop.

Now I want to consider what I feel have been and will be some of the hardest difficulties to overcome, these hard, dry winds, hot sunshine and hail. To impress on your minds what I want you to get is that high pruning has been to the greatest detriment to the fruit interest—for the hot sun and the dry hot weather blisters the bark on the southwest side of the trees, which kills the sap on the southwest side of the tree, and as the sap is the life of the tree, the tree can never be fruitful. This does not apply to shade trees, as they have thick bark that the sun doesn't blister. When the sun has killed the southwest side of a fruit tree this cuts off the circulation of the sap just as far as the sun scalds around the tree. The sap is the life of the tree and the tree becomes partly killed. After the bark is affected the borers get in and the results are that your tree is never very fruitful any more.

High pruning has never been good in any country except to get the tree in shape to plow close to. Far less in a high altitude like this where the trees need their natural protection from the excessive dry winds and hot sunshine that we have. There is a general opinion that seedling trees do better than budded or grafted trees. There is no cause for this except that seedling trees are left to grow their own way—they branch low and nature takes care of them. Whenever you

interfere with nature you are doing wrong. We should shape up our tree to suit the climate. A man contemplating planting an orchard should have in his mind just how he wants to cut his trees to shape it up so as to keep it balanced against our hard southwest winds and hot sunshine. The sun should never shine on the body of the tree. The shade should be over soil that covers the roots. In this way a tree stays moist and cool during hot dry weather more so than a highly pruned tree compared to a man sitting in the cool shade with a man sitting out in the hot sun and dry winds.

In order to accomplish this the man that contemplates planting a tree should have it in his mind how to cut the tree same as a carpenter has his plans laid to build a certain house. When you plant a tree you want to prune the north and east side something like one-third higher than the south and west. Have your lowest limbs not more than 12 inches high on the south and west and alternate them around the body of the tree. Cut them so that the growth will be inclined toward the south and west. If you cut a limb or a bud where you don't want it shave them off as close as possible so they won't start out again. The way to do this is fully explained in instructions for West Texas and New Mexico.

One advantage that a low headed tree has over the high pruned tree in this country is that it will have more fruit on it from a foot above the ground to where the high pruned tree commences than the high pruned tree will have all told. In high pruning you prune the best part of bearing timber off. It is difficult for the fruit to be kept on the high pruned tree during our high winds for it does not have proper protection from the winds. Another advantage the low branch tree has is time of hail. Hail will hit the body of the tree and cause it to become diseased and if badly bruised will never be a fruitful tree any more. On the other hand on, the low branch tree the hail will hit the branches before it gets to the body of the tree. The body will not likely be hit at all. If the limbs are broken or bruised you can cut them back and the tree will soon grow another top and be as good as ever.

There is a general opinion that an orchard will not last long on the Plains. I am doubtful, in fact I feel sure that there has never been a tree died on the Plains of old age—they generally die from neglect, or in other words, from the want of plant food or disease. The larger

the tree the more moisture and plant food they need, and when an orchard becomes old and large the best thing to be done is what I call dehorning them, that is to cut a large portion of the top off, to put them back where they will be of such size that they will have sufficient plant food and moisture to keep them in good condition. In some instances it might be the best to thin them out, fertilize and cultivate them. Many people want to know the best time to plant nursery stock. I would say it is best to take them up in the fall and all such stock as grapes, berries, roses and many other shrubs will do better to plant them in the fall. After they are planted cut the tops off within three or four inches of the ground and cover the tops with moist dirt up to where they have been cut. This will keep them moist and fresh and they will grow out good in the spring and toughen up to our dry winds.

But trees that have so much top to be exposed to the dry winds during the dormant season. I think it best to heel them out through the winter and plant about George Washington's birthday. A good way to heel them out is to cut a ditch east and west making the north side straight down about 18 inches deep. Make the south side of the ditch slanting towards the south. When you get your trees unpack them and cut the ends of the roots off where the roots are firm and sound, making the cut slant so it will slant with the soil when placed next to it. Place them in the ditch just as close as you can get the dirt around in among the roots. Cover the roots with loose dirt, cover that with water. When the water has soaked in mound up with loose dirt, covering the tops three-fourths up. This way they will be fresh and moist to plant in February.

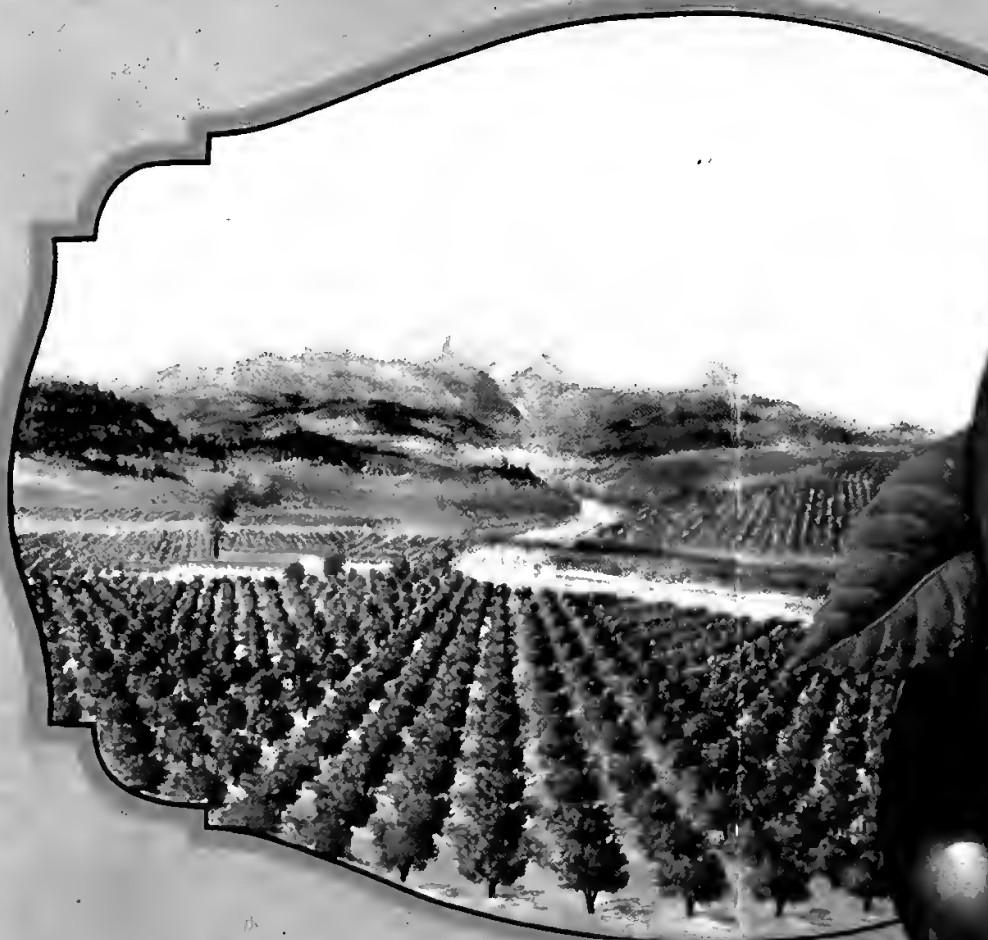
Some may want to know the best location for an orchard. My opinion is that "a high level place" is the best. On lands that are very rolling soil is generally too thin with a lime sub-soil that is not best for trees. The rain runs off the sloping soil instead of soaking in to the soil.

I will be pleased to know if this experience of mine will be of any help to anyone contemplating planting trees. We have catalogues and planting instructions for your help and please remember this: when you plant trees you are not only adding to your own premises but you are adding to the welfare and pleasures of the country at large. If you think you can't you can't, if you think you can you can.

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